

## CURRENT DIRECTION OF CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM ALARMS SCWC

The Southern California Water Committee expressed grave concern to Lester Snow, Executive Director, CALFED Bay-Delta Program, about the apparent shift of the Bay-Delta Program from the original approach of selecting an Alternative based on technically superior performance to a phased implementation approach which makes no commitment to a technically feasible solution.

The Southern California Water Committee, with its coalition of county and city elected officials, agricultural and business leaders, water agency representatives, and private citizens endorsed Alternative 3 because it provides export water quality, limited diversion effects on fisheries, Delta flow circulation, water supply opportunities, operational flexibility, and less risk to export water supplies. Our comments on the Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS noted that the CALFED program's own analysis lead directly to Alternative 3.

CALFED's technical appraisal indicates that a dual conveyance facility in the Delta has the greatest potential to satisfy the Bay-Delta solution principles and program objectives and yet the current proposed staged approach makes no commitment to assuring the benefits to Southern California that such a facility would provide.

The Southern California Water Committee is troubled that the CALFED's proposed staging approach defers and delays making the hard, but important decisions regarding the long term, best solution to the problems in the Bay-Delta. Recommending second best or third best improvements to the ecosystem and fisheries is unacceptable in terms of CALFED's own solution principles. By refusing to proceed with the technically superior alternative, CALFED is transferring a huge burden of regulatory risk to the California economy. We cannot wait seven years for a decision on an isolated facility.

CALFED's proposed Stage 1 actions do not address Southern California's needs for improved water quality or increased water reliability. We require safe drinking water supplies from the Bay-Delta in order to ensure our region's public health. Southern California must have protection for existing Bay-Delta water supplies and have the ability to capture and store water in wet years to use during dry years. Our \$500 billion economy deserves no less.

The Southern California Water Committee has looked to the CALFED Program as the best means of finally resolving the issues and achieving the long awaited objective of a Delta "fix". We strongly urge each of our members to call for a balanced and technically supportable solution. CALFED's objectives must move in parallel and all program elements must be implemented simultaneously. It will be a catastrophe if CALFED fails to do so.

Please join us in expressing concern about the current direction of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program by writing to Lester Snow, Executive Director, CALFED Bay-Delta Program, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 94814.

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